

RED CROSS WORK



AN appeal has been sent out by the National Headquarters of the Red Cross in Washington asking for nurses for service during the inauguration. They are expected to report at headquarters, March 3.

There will be about twenty-two relief stations along the route of the inaugural procession, each consisting of a small army hospital tent and equipment, with two nurses and a physician in charge.

There will also be a small emergency hospital at the Union Station during the entire week and nurses may be called upon for other interesting service.

About one-half the required number of nurses will doubtless be selected from those in Washington, but the following local branches have already responded, expressing their willingness to send one or more nurses to Washington for this pleasant duty: Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Rochester, Troy.

NOTHING would show more clearly the confidence which the public now has in the American Red Cross than the generous response which came when an appeal was made for the Italian sufferers.

The following is a statement of money distributed by the National Red Cross, and of this amount \$315,895 was sent from New York State:

Forwarded direct to Italian Red Cross.....	\$320,000
Forwarded to Ambassador Griscom as follows:	
For Red Cross Relief Ship.....	100,000
Hon. Bayard Cutting	15,000
Orphanage Colony	250,000
Other relief	50,000
Lumber for portable houses, purchased through	
Navy Department	100,000
Portable houses purchased direct.....	6,740
Remitted to Italian Ambassador on account <i>The</i>	
<i>Christian Herald</i> contribution to Orphans' Fund.....	50,000
Remitted to Ambassador Griscom on account <i>The</i>	
<i>Christian Herald</i> for Waldensian Relief.....	5,000
	\$896,740

THE New York County branch of the Red Cross reports a profit of \$11,219.03 from the sale of the Red Cross Christmas stamps. Five thousand dollars was pledged for the maintenance of the Vanderbilt Day Camp for one year. This camp is in operation and doing splendid service in the care of tuberculosis patients. One thousand dollars was contributed to the tuberculosis exhibit, leaving a goodly balance for any other form of tuberculosis work which seems to be most needed.

From Buffalo comes an interesting account of the experience of a graduate of the Buffalo General Hospital, Phyllis Wood, who was living in Rome at the time of the earthquake and who offered her services to the Italian Red Cross. Her story, as given in the *Buffalo Commercial*, and somewhat condensed, is as follows:

"We assembled to receive our instructions from Professor Postemp-ski, on the afternoon of January 31. We were to leave Rome that night and sail from Spezia the following morning. He begged us to take 'as little luggage as possible and as much obedience,' and informed the volunteers that strict military discipline and order would be maintained—going so far as to say that a dark cabin with manacles would result upon any insubordination. As most of the women present were titled ladies, this must have been the beginning of a novel experience.

"Captain Bisso of the general army was then placed in command over us and his speech began by stating that 'henceforth all titles should be dropped,' and the Princesses, Marchesas, Countesses, should work under their surnames. The crowd at the station that evening to see our Red Cross train start was quiet and dignified, yet seemed full of feeling. I was placed in a compartment with the Countess Carpegna, who introduced me to the Marchesa Crespoldi, both organizers of the Red Cross, and henceforth we kept together and shared the same cabin on board our ship the 'Taomina.' The material for psychological study was on that train! and certain contrasts amusing! One Princess ———, waited upon by her maid, etc., yet these aristocratic amateurs worked nobly, and no criticism could be made, when one thinks how absolutely unprepared they were for such an appalling situation.

"The voyage from Spezia to Messina was occupied in preparing the ship for the wounded, even using the steerage, the decks, and every available corner. We steamed into Messina Saturday morning, five days after the catastrophe, and anchored outside the harbor waiting for daylight. However, what met our eyes was an appalling sight, for three war vessels kept throwing searchlights over what was once Messina; and by their aid we could discern much of the desolation. In one corner of the ruins a huge funeral pyre was burning, to which the dead bodies were taken, and the fumes even out on the water were sickening. We steamed in at

sunrise, and as we passed the war ships they saluted us by dipping the flag, and the admiral's marines were filed out on deck presenting arms. We dropped anchor near enough land to see all of its horrors—procession upon procession of carts and stretchers carrying the dead and dying; masses of débris, hills of accumulated ruins and only remnants of houses left standing. We could see at the railway station trains looking as if they had been through a collision, cars off the track and a locomotive on its side, but the most impressive thing was the ground itself, sunk in places and vast cracks staring open. Here and there were tents rigged up to give first aid to the injured. We had come in for the worst, because the rescued had already been underground several days and were in torture from thirst and hunger, as well as injury. It was hustle and bustle as soon as the poor maimed things began to be carried on board, and oh! the cries for water and screams of those in pain. The sailors and soldiers who carried the poor creatures in their arms seemed like an endless stream.

“I shall never be able to describe the enormity of the misery and suffering—one could only do the little one could for them. Many seemed in a condition of prostration, and very nearly demented, benumbed with mental as well as physical pain. One poor woman had given birth to a child just as she was being pulled from the ruins, and after we had made her as comfortable as we could on the boat, the sailors crowded around her cot and asked her to name the child ‘Taomina’ after our ship. One death which stands out in my memory is that of one of those heroic rescuers, a young lieutenant of Bersaglieri, who was carried on board dying from a hemorrhage of the lungs, brought on by his tremendous exertions. He was absolutely conscious to the last breath. We had no time to undress him, so he lay in his uniform and we placed his sword by his side. Doubtless he was one of the many who had ‘laid down their lives.’

“The first day and night I was detailed to do the dressing of wounds and then I was ordered down into the hold to assist Professor Guarneri with the operations, and then real business began. We worked at the rate of sixty operations a day, all sorts of settings and every conceivable fracture. We had two extemporized operating tables and two young doctors worked with me under Professor Guarneri. The emergency was so great there was often no time for an anaesthetic, yet we heard hardly a murmur from those poor lips. Sometimes it seemed impossible to keep up the dressing supplies necessary, to have solutions, etc., ready in the twinkling of an eye, but Guarneri is a magnificent surgeon, full of energy and enthusiasm, worthy of his reputation, and so

calm and self-possessed, that one worked under him unconscious that the hours were from six A.M. to one A.M. So passed the six days at Messina, and then with the heavily laden ship we sailed for Leghorn. We stopped at Naples long enough to disembark the dying and the dead, the rest we took on to Leghorn.

"Each patient (so many the solitary survivor of a family) had to be labelled with his name and diagnosis which were pinned to his shirt. On reaching port the First Aid to the Injured of the Red Cross of Leghorn came on board and helped us to disembark. The streets were filled with soldiers to keep the crowd back. Our poor patients were taken to hospitals and we, by the thoroughly organized Red Cross, to the best hotels and treated with all possible courtesy. The mayor of the city called on us to take the names of those we had each taken especial interest in. Oh! it seemed good to get off one's boots and take a long breath and keep still.

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"And now this trip is over and I have been ordered off on another relief expedition to Reggio, and this morning General Tavernia called to bring me in person the thanks of Queen Elena."

IN the *Boston Transcript* Dr. Grenfell gives an account of his year's work. The steamer carrying supplies for the Labrador stations, Battle Hospital, and the nursing station at Forteau, encountered bad weather, lost her captain, and has been frozen into a harbor near the northern end of Newfoundland, where it will have to stay until spring. It not only carried supplies, but furnishings for the new nurse's home. The nurse, meanwhile, is living in a fisherman's hut, caring for three crippled children, and cooking in lard pails, in place of expected and much-needed utensils.

The experiment in importing reindeer has proved most encouraging. The reindeer are thriving and multiplying. They are proving useful as carriers and their milk is rich and their flesh will make an important addition to the food supply.